

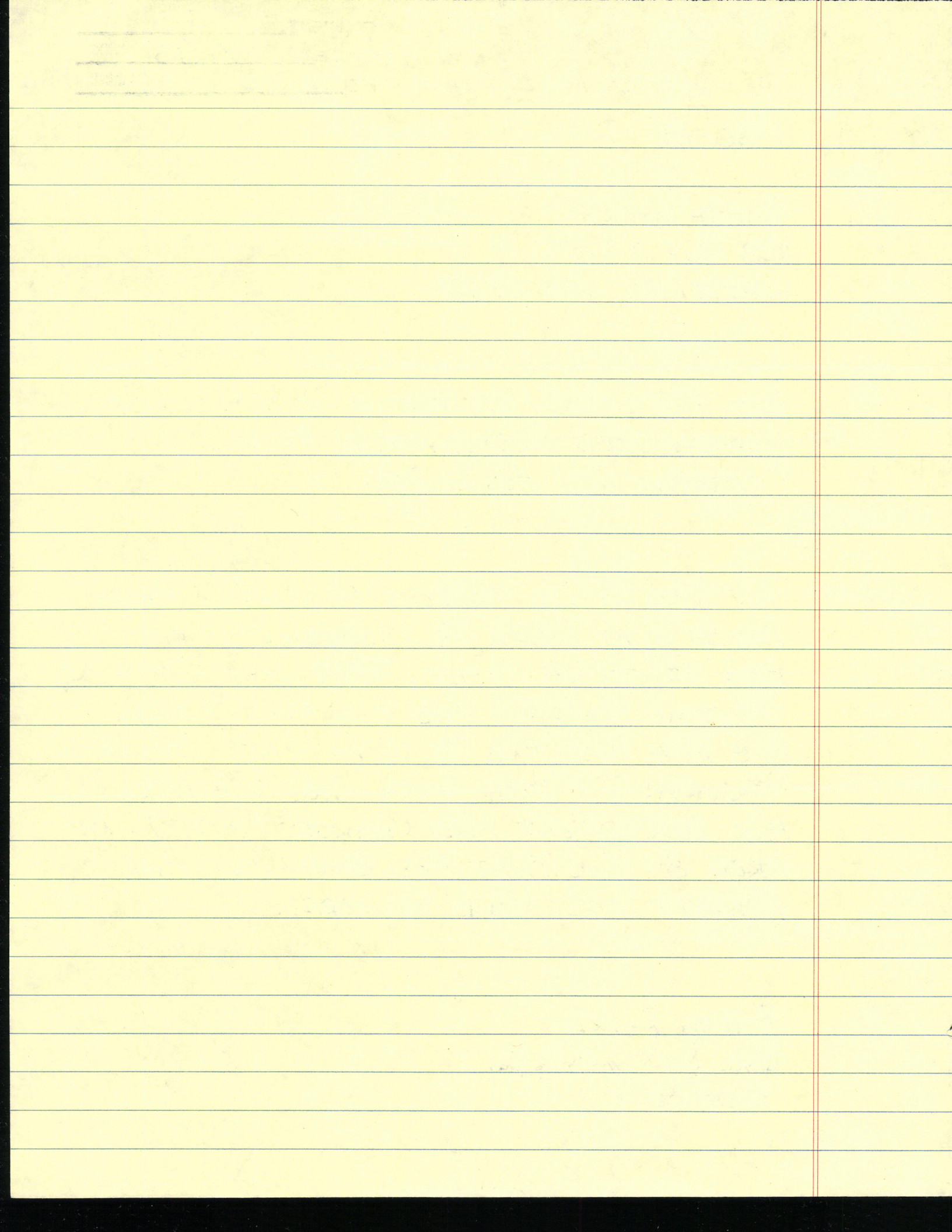
1-30-13

SMITH RANCH
203 HWY 2 WEST
WHITEHALL, MT. 59759

BIG PIPESTONE / JEFFERSON RIVER SLOUGH
WATER SHED RESTORATION PROJECTS
CONTAIN IN HOUSE BILL 6

WE THE SHARE HOLDERS OF SMITH RANCH
AGREE THAT THERE IS PROBLEMS WITH
BIG PIPESTONE CREEK. THEY ARE EROSION,
SEDIMENTATION AND ELEVATION DROP.
WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH GROUPS OR
PERSONAL TO HELP WITH THE PROBLEMS.
ALL DECISIONS AND CHANGES NEED TO BE
OKED BY ALL THAT ARE ENVOLED AND
MAINLY THE LAND OWNERS.

SMITH RANCH
John J. Smith, Jr.
PRESIDENT



To the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee:

I am a landowner along Pipestone creek and I support the Big Pipestone/Jefferson Slough Watershed Project in House Bill 6.

The floor of a couple of years ago did some severe damage to stream banks in our property, which are continuing to erode, producing much downstream sediment.

Katharine and Kermit Hoyenga
147 Bluebird Lane
Whitehall, MT 59759

Jan. 30, 2013

Mr. Chairman:

My wife and I are landowners on Big Pipestone Creek. We would like to express our support for HB6, that will begin the process of addressing the erosion and silting issues we face on Pipestone Creek.

In addition we also ask for your support concerning funding for a new head gate at the point of diversion for the Jefferson Canal. This structure is critical in our ability to control the flow that eventually makes its way into Big Pipestone Creek.

I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have. I can be reached at the phone number or email address listed below.

Thank you,

Jim and Ginger Miller

52 Capp Lane

Whitehall, Mt. 59759

jvmiller@msn.com 406-287-3865

Jan. 30, 2013

Mr. Chairman:

I am writing this letter in support to HB6. Capp Ranch has approximately 2 miles of Big Pipestone Creek running through its property. We would very much like to see this problem addressed.

We also would like to voice our support for the head gate funding request on the diversion for the Jefferson Canal. Lack of control of canal water has created a separate erosion problem where the Canal discharges into Pipestone Creek at the western end of our property. It will be difficult to control future water related issues without first replacing this head gate.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Virginia Miller

52 Capp Lane

Whitehall, Mt. 59759

jvmiller@msn.com 406-287-3865

January 31, 2013

Chairman
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Sir:

As a landowner on Big Pipestone Creek we are writing in support of the Big Pipestone/Jefferson Slough Watershed Restoration Projects in HB 6.

Every time Pipestone creek floods it impacts my land & I hope the situation can be addressed.

Thank you for your support

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myra Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Myra Anderson

January 31, 2013

Chairman
House Appropriations Committee



Dear Sir:

As landowners on Big Pipestone Creek we are writing in support of the Big Pipestone/Jefferson Slough Watershed Restoration Projects in HB 6.

Over the years I have watched what was once good fishing stream become a sediment choked stream with few fish.

Additionally we are not able to irrigate lands which we own due to the sediment buildup in the stream.

Thank you for your support

Sincerely, 

Herbert & Kathryn Wanke

Laliberty, Joel - NRCS, Whitehall, MT

From: Ted Dodge [ted.dodge516@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 9:02 AM
To: Laliberty, Joel - NRCS, Whitehall, MT
Subject: Fwd:

3 of 4

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Kountz <48johnk@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 31, 2013 at 3:21 PM
Subject:
To: "ted.dodge516@gmail.com" <ted.dodge516@gmail.com>

Being involved in the ranching business on Big Pipestone Creek most of my life, I see this as an opportunity as a small community to come together and fix some watershed problems that have plagued our neighbors for many years. If done right these projects could save taxpayers a lot of expenses and property damage overtime . I therefore support trying to fund these projects.

John Kountz

--

Ted Dodge
Email: ted.dodge516@gmail.com
Cell: 406-579-3762

January 31, 2013

Dear Chair of House Appropriations Committee:

As third generation landowners of more than one mile of Big Pipestone Creek we are deeply concerned by the condition of Big Pipestone Creek and the negative impact it is having on the fishery, our land use and property values. The changes in the past twenty years are dramatic and the last fifty years shocking. Restoration of Big Pipestone Creek and the Jefferson River Slough will have benefits locally in Jefferson County as well as downstream in the Missouri River drainage to both current and future generations.

We strongly support the amendment to HB 6 to fund the Big Pipestone/Jefferson River Slough Watershed Restoration Project.

Thank you,

Jeff and Leslie Alley

January 31, 2013

To The Honorable Chair
House Appropriations Committee
State of Montana Legislature

RE: House Bill 6
Pipestone Creek /Jefferson Slough Watershed

Please note the support of the efforts to restore Montana's water ways and as well as the efforts to protect our natural resources. This is an important habitat for many fish, fowl and deer in our area. The residents of our neighborhood located along this waterway enjoy the beauty of the many species who use this creek as their life source.

I am asking that you support House Bill 6 which funds the Restoration Project for the Pipestone/Jefferson Slough Watershed.

Respectfully;
Ann Geiger, Representative
1173 MT Highway
Whitehall, MT 59759

The Jefferson & Slaughterhouse Slough Association
270 East Hwy 2
Whitehall, MT 59759

January 31, 2013

Dear Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Jefferson & Slaughterhouse Slough Association (JSSA) is in support of the proposed Big Pipestone/Jefferson Slough Watershed Restoration Projects. The members of the JSSA are the ranchers/water right holders dependent on the Jefferson Slough for the water essential to their operations.

Sediment from Pipestone Creek is a major concern to us. Due to changes and impacts to the Pipestone Creek upstream of us that are out of our control and beyond our ability to correct, huge quantities of sediment have flowed and continue to flow downstream into the Jefferson Slough. This sediment load has impacted our diversions, filling them with sediment. It has also changed the characteristic of the Slough including deep sediment build up through out the Slough resulting in encroachment of cattails and now the growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil. This has resulted in making it more and more difficult for our water to flow down the Slough. The more sediment that comes down, the more cattail and weed encroachment we will have; and the more encroachment that occurs, the more sediment will be trapped. We are greatly concerned that eventually the sediment will fill in the Slough to the point we won't be able to get our water; and, as the Milfoil spreads the more difficulty we will have with our pump intakes plugging up.

The sediment load from the Pipestone Creek is changing the Slough from what was at one time a healthy stream and riparian area that had a healthy trout fishery to a sluggish sediment and cattail filled slough. Most of us are multi-generational landowners, and it is very disturbing to see this happen to this resource. It also has the potential to greatly reduce the value of our ranches. The Golden Sunlight Mine, the major employer and tax payer in the Jefferson Valley, is also a water right holder on the Slough and is dependent on the Slough water for their operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Robert Casagrande, President
The Jefferson & Slaughterhouse Slough Association



Barrick Golden Sunlight Mines, Inc.
453 MT HWY 2 East
Whitehall, MT 59759

Tel:(406)287-3257
Fax:(406)287-2035

January 31, 2013

Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Montana House of Representatives

Re: Big Pipestone/Jefferson Slough Watershed Restoration Project

Dear Chairman:

The Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine holds both mining and agricultural property and water rights along the Jefferson River Slough. The slough is the primary source of water for the mining operation which employs nearly 300 employees and contractors.

Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine has great concerns for the health of the Jefferson River Slough as well as upstream tributaries. These concerns are not only related to water quantity and quality and the sustainability of our operation, but also to the control of invasive species and preservation of the indigenous biodiversity of the water body, and a potential reduction in the frequency and severity of flooding in residential areas in and around Whitehall.

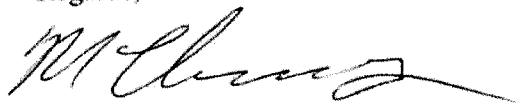
Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine not only supports the Big Pipestone/Jefferson River Slough Watershed Restoration Project, but also is a member of the Big Pipestone Technical Advisory Committee.

Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine has committed to the Jefferson River Watershed Council that it would implement programs to reduce or eliminate sediment loading from tributaries on its agricultural properties (leased to local ranchers) reporting to the Jefferson River Slough and would not accept public funding to accomplish this goal. However, commitments such as this are not necessarily feasible for other private property landowners in the area.

Please consider the benefits to the environment, public, water right holders, and industry to forwarding the Big Pipestone/Jefferson River Slough Watershed Restoration Project.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please contact me at 406-287-208.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Thompson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

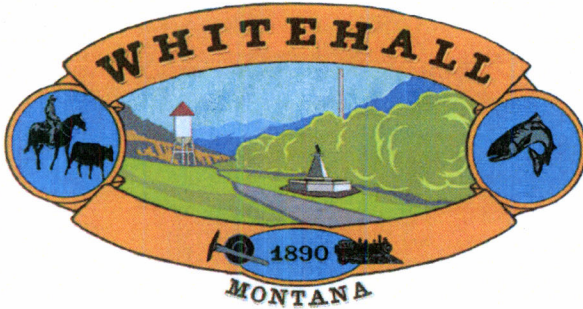
Mark Thompson

Environmental Superintendent
Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine

Chairman of the
House Appropriation Committee

I am writing this in support of the
request by Jefferson County for funding
for the Big Pipestone Creek - Jefferson
Slough Watershed Restoration Projects.

Gary Nelson
Silver Star, Mt.
Chairman of
Jefferson River Watershed
Council



Town of Whitehall Montana
Office of the Mayor

County of Jefferson, State of Montana

P.O. Box 529/2 N Whitehall

Whitehall, MT 59759

Phone: 406-287-3972

Fax: 406-287-5088

townofwhitehall@yahoo.com

"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider"

January 30th, 2013

House Appropriations Committee
Duane Ankney, Chairman
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB6

On behalf of the Town of Whitehall, I am writing in support of the Big Pipestone Creek/Jefferson Slough Watershed Restoration Projects contained in HB6.

Considerable work needs to be done to Big Pipestone Creek, and we believe strongly that working on this issue will help alleviate the ever-growing flooding issues of this creek. The Town of Whitehall experienced considerable flooding in the spring of 2012, and we believe that the efforts of HB6 will help protect property and lives.

Again, the Town of Whitehall is in strong support of the restoration projects contained in HB6.

Thank You
Sincerely,

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh
Mayor
Town of Whitehall

1/30/2013

Page 1 of 1

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 278

VIRGINIA CITY, MT 59755

Commissioners

David Schulz
Dan Happel
James P. Hart

e-mail: madco@madison.mt.gov
www.madison.mt.gov

Phone: (406)843-4277
Fax: (406) 843-5517

February 1, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB6 (RRGL) Madison County Moore's Creek project

Representative Ankney and Committee members:

Please thank the LRP subcommittee for its recommended support for all RRGL projects. As Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, you and your committee members are now tasked with possible agreement with that recommendation. This letter is sent in support of that recommendation.

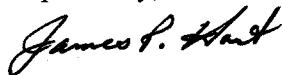
The Moore's Creek project in Madison County involves replacement of eight (8) culverts with larger structures to pass the 100-year flood event: one (1) culvert runs under US 287, the Main Street of Ennis; one (1) runs under MT 287 approximately one (1) mile northwest of Ennis toward Virginia City (those two involve the bulk of the replacement costs); and the remaining six (6) are between those two points, meandering through the Town of Ennis.

The project will remove homes and commercial properties from the floodplain, will reduce flooding by providing a natural channel and by promoting aquatic organism passage through the structures, and will improve water quality by reducing channel erosion caused by increased velocity.

Madison County has secured a FEMA-HMGP grant for \$750,000 toward the project. The County financially supports the project and both the Town of Ennis and the County have also pledged man-power and equipment matching support. Nevertheless, neither entity can afford to move forward without additional assistance from the DNRC-RRGL to match the County, the City, and the FEMA grant. Please also keep in mind during your discussions that this project secures and enhances local jobs and that the project could be under construction as early as fall, 2013.

Thank you for your serious consideration of all RRGL projects. Trust that your financial assistance is truly appreciated and will be wisely utilized. I urge the Appropriation Committee's support of the LRP subcommittee's recommendation.

Respectfully,



James P. Hart
District 3 Road Supervisor
Board of Commissioners
Madison County



Sweet Grass COUNTY

Office of the County Commissioners

Susie Mosness

Bob Faw

Bill Wallace

House Appropriations Committee
Representative Duane Ankney, Chair
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. box 20040
Helena MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney,

Sweet Grass County Commissioners would appreciate the House Appropriations Committee continued support for the Greycliff Bank Stabilization Project. This committee has funded an engineering study for this project in 2009 and we now need to finish this project, before more agricultural land is lost and over 100 Sweet Grass County residents lose their road and possibly the bridge.

The county has done some temporary work to slow the erosion along the road. This erosion in this area is adding over 10,000 cubic yards of sediment to the Yellowstone River, affecting fish habitat downstream. Also one quarter of a mile downstream is a MDT bridge that could be in danger during the next flood event, from erosion and river migration.

This project if funded will remove a very large chunk of riprap from the river, install 4 rock vanes and revegetate 2700 feet of riverbank. Sweet Grass County is in the loop for FEMA Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant that will bring additional funds to finish this project.

The Greycliff Bank Stabilization Project is a "shovel ready" project that will also create job opportunities in the state. Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Sincerely,

Sweet Grass County Commissioners